BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 08-16 April 18, 2008

- **Inflation rate rises to 1.2% in March**
- **New motor vehicle sales fell 5.6% in February**
- **Visitor entries to Canada via BC slipped 0.7% in February**

## Prices

- **Consumer prices in British Columbia increased an average of 1.2% in March compared to the same month last year.** The major contributors to the higher price level were a jump in shelter costs, which rose 2.8%, and an increase in gasoline prices, up 9.4% from twelve months earlier. Excluding energy, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for BC was up 0.8%.

  Restaurant bills took a larger bite (+2.8%) out of the household budget, offsetting a decline in the cost of groceries (-0.7%) and pushing the overall price level for food slightly higher (+0.5%) in March. A 3.3% increase in the cost of owned accommodation, combined with a 2.0% hike for renters, contributed to higher shelter costs (+2.8%). Lower prices for both electricity (-0.2%) and piped gas (-2.3%) dampened the effect of a sharp increase (+24.8%) in the cost of fuel oil & other fuel. Household operations, furnishings & equipment costs eased slightly (-0.5%), while recreation, education & reading became more expensive (+0.8%). Cover prices on reading materials (-2.2%), have fallen for the fourth consecutive month, likely due to the strengthening dollar and consumer reaction to the disparity between prices on books and magazines between the US and Canada. Transportation costs climbed 1.4% as a result of an increase in the cost of operating an automobile (+6.3%) and higher fares for public transportation (+3.5%). The cost of alcohol & tobacco was up 2.1%, while price tags on clothing and footwear (+0.2%) edged only slightly higher.

  Inflation rates increased in BC's two major urban centres in March. In Vancouver, inflation inched 0.2 percentage points higher to 1.5%. In Victoria, consumers saw prices increase 0.6%.

  *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's year-over-year inflation rate was 1.4% in March, the fourth straight month where inflation was down and the lowest increase in the price level since January 2007.** Mortgage interest costs (+8.3%) and higher prices at the pump (+7.9%) were the main contributors to the higher price level. Ontarians faced the lowest price increases among the provinces, with the CPI rising only 0.8%. Inflation in Alberta eased to its lowest point since December 2005, as prices increased 2.9%, compared with 3.5% registered in February. Consumers in Saskatchewan paid 3.2% more for goods and services in March as that province's inflation rate became the highest in the country. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## The Economy

- **Sales of goods by BC's manufacturers slipped 0.2% to $3.3 billion (*seasonally adjusted*) in February as a drop (-2.0%) in shipments of durables offset an increase (+1.9%) in non-durable sales.** Slumping sales levels by manufacturers of wood products (-4.0%) and fabricated metals (-3.8%) weighed heavily against a rise in paper shipments, which jumped 14.1%. Manufacturing sales of primary metals advanced 3.0% while makers of food products saw shipments inch 0.1% lower in February.

  Nationally, sales of manufactured goods rose 1.6% in February, as assembly lines in Canada's auto-making industry ramped up production (+11.7%). Manufacturing sales increased in seven provinces with Ontario (+2.4%), New Brunswick (+10.0%) and Quebec (+0.6%) accounting for the lion's share of the rise. Shutdowns in the petroleum industry were partly to blame for a decline in total manufacturing sales in Alberta (-0.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

**Report** **Mobility and Migration: Census 2006**

Did you know...
In 2005, $8.5 billion in donations were claimed by taxfilers, the largest amount ever recorded. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Rebounding from back-to-back months of declines, British Columbia's wholesalers inched ahead in sales by 0.3% in February.** Most sectors reported gains during the month with the most significant increases registered in machinery & equipment (+12.9%), alcohol & tobacco (+10.0%) and metal products (+9.5%). There were also notable increases in wholesales of food products (+3.1%), pharmaceuticals (+1.9%) and motor vehicles (+1.4%). However, lumber & millwork (-7.8%), home & personal products (-5.7%) and building supplies (-2.4%) all recorded lower sales. Wholesale sales of office & professional equipment (-2.0%) and computers & other electrical equipment (-1.4%) were also down.

  Nationally, wholesale sales dropped 1.8% in February, erasing all of the gains made in January with most sectors reporting lower sales figures. Ontario bore the brunt of most of the downturn in February as wholesales in the province fell 4.9%. Most other provinces posted gains in sales with Newfoundland & Labrador (+9.1%), Alberta (+2.3%) and Quebec (+1.9%) leading the way. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in BC fell 5.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in February following three consecutive months of growth.** A drop in domestic truck and overseas vehicle sales completely offset an increase in the number of North American cars sold.

  Nationally, new motor vehicle sales were off 3.2% as both passenger cars and trucks saw a decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Traveller entries to Canada through BC declined 0.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in February.** There were fewer American visitors (-0.9%) as same-day travel fell (-3.0%), offsetting a slight increase (+0.1%) in overnight trips. Although the number of travellers from Asia was higher (+2.1%), a drop in entries from Oceania (-5.1%) and Europe (-2.0%) left overseas visitation relatively unchanged (-0.1%).

  An estimated 757,000 Canadians returned home from the US via BC in February, up 1.1% compared to the previous month. Same-day trips south of the border increased (+1.9%) following two months of declines, while the number of Canadians returning from overseas countries (+4.2%) reached record-high levels.

  *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## Health

- **In 1994/1995, 11% of Canadian children aged 11 years and younger had been diagnosed with asthma but by 2000/2001, that percentage had risen to 13%, an increase of roughly 70,000 children.** However, although the number of diagnosed children rose, it was found that the recorded incidences of asthma attacks fell significantly. The number of children reported to have suffered an asthma attack in the previous year dropped from 51% in 1994/1995 to 39% by 2000/2001. While lower income is generally associated with poor health, and higher income with good health, this prevalence of childhood asthma and the number of asthma attacks was not significantly different across income groups. The presence of a daily smoker, however, did significantly increase the likelihood of a child being diagnosed with asthma to 15% compared to 13% among non-smoking families. Geography appears to play a role in the likelihood of a child being diagnosed with asthma as those from Quebec (15%) and the Atlantic provinces (15%) were most likely to have the condition, while children from British Columbia (11%) and the Prairie provinces (11%) were the least likely to suffer from asthma. In 2000/2001, 16% of boys were diagnosed with asthma, compared with 11% for girls.

  *Data Source: SC, Cat. # 11-001-XIE*

## The Nation

- **The composite leading index remained unchanged in March as 6 of 10 component indicators rose.** Housing and household spending indicators rebounded from strong declines while financial indexes suffered further pressure from a weakening stock market.

  *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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Originally published in
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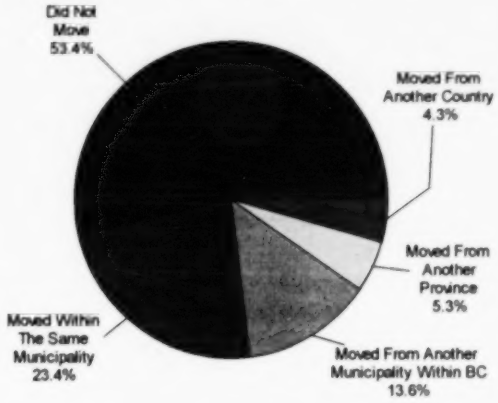
# Mobility and Migration: Census 2006

The results from the 2006 Census show that over 1.8 million people residing in British Columbia on May 16, 2006 lived at a different address five years previously, in 2001. This represents 47% of the population, up from the 46% who moved between 1996 and 2001. (Note that all statistics reported here are for population aged five years old and over.)

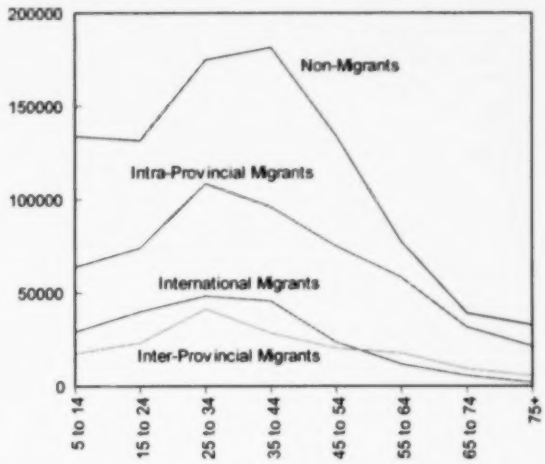
**Figure 1: BC Mobility 2001 to 2006**


Did Not Move 53.4%
Moved From Another Country 4.3%
Moved From Another Province 5.3%
Moved From Another Municipality Within BC 13.6%
Moved Within The Same Municipality 23.4%

Of the BC residents who did move between 2001 and 2006, approximately 50% moved within the same municipality, 29% moved to a different municipality within the province, 9% moved in from another province, and nearly 12% arrived from a different country. This pattern is practically unchanged from the 1996 to 2001 period.

In general, young adults tend to move more often than people in other age groups, with seniors moving the least. The motivation for moving may also be different among the age groups. For example, 15-24 year olds are often moving away from their parents, in search of education or employment, and individuals aged 25-34 often move to start families.

**Figure 2: Movers by Age Group**



## Table 1: BC 5 Year Mobility Status

| Mobility Status | # of People | % of Total | % of Movers |
|---|---|---|---|
| Population 5+ years old | 3,871,915 | - | - |
| Non-Movers (Did Not Move) | 2,067,785 | 53.4 | - |
| Non-Migrants (Moved Within The Same Municipality) | 904,705 | 23.4 | 50.1 |
| Intraprovincial Migrants (Moved From Another Municipality Within BC) | 528,500 | 13.6 | 29.3 |
| Interprovincial Migrants (Moved From Another Province) | 164,715 | 4.3 | 9.1 |
| International Migrants (Moved From Another Country) | 206,215 | 5.3 | 11.4 |

## Table 2: BC 5 Year Mobility by Age Group

| Mobility Status | Total | 5–14 years | 15–24 years | 25–34 years | 35–44 years | 45–54 years | 55–64 years | 65–74 years | 75+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total - Mobility status 5 years ago** | 3,871,915 | 477,300 | 537,975 | 497,660 | 622,525 | 661,400 | 502,620 | 310,455 | 261,980 |
| **Non-movers** | 2,067,785 | 232,850 | 269,155 | 124,525 | 271,160 | 407,920 | 337,160 | 224,750 | 200,270 |
| **Movers** | 1,804,125 | 244,455 | 268,825 | 373,140 | 351,365 | 253,480 | 165,460 | 85,695 | 61,715 |
| **Non-migrants** | 904,705 | 133,780 | 131,515 | 174,845 | 181,385 | 134,115 | 77,335 | 39,100 | 32,625 |
| **Migrants** | 899,420 | 110,670 | 137,305 | 198,285 | 169,975 | 119,365 | 88,120 | 46,600 | 29,085 |
| **Internal** | 693,210 | 81,520 | 97,390 | 149,995 | 124,330 | 95,670 | 76,290 | 40,935 | 27,060 |
| **Intra-provincial** | 528,500 | 63,720 | 73,935 | 108,460 | 95,905 | 75,115 | 58,400 | 31,565 | 21,380 |
| **Inter-provincial** | 164,715 | 17,805 | 23,455 | 41,530 | 28,425 | 20,550 | 17,895 | 9,370 | 5,685 |
| **External** | 206,215 | 29,145 | 39,915 | 48,290 | 45,645 | 23,695 | 11,830 | 5,660 | 2,025 |
| **Percentage of age group who move** | **46.60%** | **51.22%** | **49.97%** | **74.98%** | **56.44%** | **38.32%** | **32.92%** | **27.60%** | **23.56%** |

## Table 3: 5 Year Interprovincial Mobility

| Province | In | Out | Net |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alberta | 226,865 | 138,690 | 88,175 |
| British Columbia | 164,710 | 142,575 | 22,135 |
| Prince Edward Island | 8,300 | 7,690 | 610 |
| Nunavut | 2,425 | 2,770 | -345 |
| Yukon Territory | 3,665 | 4,015 | -350 |
| Northwest Territories | 6,360 | 7,045 | -685 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 25,780 | 32,020 | -6,240 |
| Nova Scotia | 48,035 | 56,040 | -8,005 |
| New Brunswick | 31,575 | 42,180 | -10,605 |
| Quebec | 73,550 | 85,200 | -11,650 |
| Manitoba | 36,585 | 57,330 | -20,745 |
| Saskatchewan | 38,930 | 64,310 | -25,380 |
| Ontario | 185,785 | 212,705 | -26,920 |
| **Canada** | **852,570** | **852,570** | **0** |

## Table 4: Movers to B.C. (5 Year Mobility)

| Province | Movers to BC | %of total |
|---|---|---|
| Alberta | 62,795 | 38.1% |
| Ontario | 56,035 | 34.0% |
| Manitoba | 11,455 | 7.0% |
| Saskatchewan | 10,700 | 6.5% |
| Quebec | 10,070 | 6.1% |
| Nova Scotia | 5,960 | 3.6% |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 2,220 | 1.3% |
| New Brunswick | 2,165 | 1.3% |
| Yukon Territory | 1,480 | 0.9% |
| Northwest Territories | 1,165 | 0.7% |
| Prince Edward Island | 470 | 0.3% |
| Nunavut | 195 | 0.1% |
| **Total** | **164,710** | **100.0%** |

The most mobile age group in BC were those 25 to 34. Nearly 75% of this group moved at some point between 2001 and 2006, whereas only about a quarter of those older than 75 moved. Additionally, the distance younger people move is somewhat greater, with about 8% of movers aged 25 to 34 coming from a different province, compared with only 2% of movers 75 years or older. Indeed, the majority of movers in BC are non-migrants. A non-migrant is defined as a person who had a change of address between 2001 and 2006, but still lived in the same census subdivision (CSD) as they did five years earlier.

**Table 5: Census Metropolitan Area (CMS) and Census Agglomeration (CA) 5 Year Mobility**

| CMA/CA | Population 5 Yrs of Age+ | Non-Movers | Non-Migrants | Intra-provincial Migrants | Inter-provincial Migrants | Inter-national Migrants |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abbotsford | 146,460 | 72,525 | 41,415 | 21,280 | 4,595 | 6,640 |
| Campbell River | 34,525 | 18,280 | 8,655 | 5,590 | 1,565 | 435 |
| Chilliwack | 75,315 | 38,015 | 19,630 | 13,735 | 2,810 | 1,125 |
| Courtenay | 46,650 | 23,785 | 8,875 | 8,470 | 4,700 | 825 |
| Cranbrook | 22,655 | 13,060 | 4,990 | 2,840 | 1,490 | 275 |
| Dawson Creek | 10,140 | 4,995 | 2,995 | 1,360 | 630 | 150 |
| Duncan | 39,090 | 22,165 | 8,440 | 6,165 | 1,745 | 575 |
| Fort St. John | 23,130 | 10,475 | 6,620 | 3,635 | 2,100 | 300 |
| Kamloops | 87,580 | 46,825 | 22,015 | 13,795 | 3,685 | 1,255 |
| Kelowna | 153,165 | 74,865 | 40,385 | 22,010 | 12,480 | 3,425 |
| Kitimat | 8,540 | 5,815 | 1,840 | 615 | 260 | 10 |
| Nanaimo | 87,260 | 42,935 | 23,790 | 13,485 | 4,930 | 2,115 |
| Parksville | 25,510 | 12,795 | 3,635 | 6,105 | 2,460 | 505 |
| Penticton | 41,200 | 21,875 | 8,665 | 7,405 | 2,810 | 445 |
| Port Alberni | 23,915 | 14,400 | 5,365 | 3,285 | 705 | 160 |
| Powell River | 15,595 | 9,505 | 3,130 | 1,905 | 630 | 435 |
| Prince George | 77,910 | 44,210 | 21,565 | 8,540 | 2,725 | 860 |
| Prince Rupert | 12,495 | 7,325 | 3,345 | 1,395 | 260 | 175 |
| Quesnel | 21,160 | 13,545 | 4,840 | 2,200 | 395 | 185 |
| Salmon Arm | 14,975 | 7,605 | 2,915 | 3,030 | 1,175 | 255 |
| Squamish | 14,225 | 7,230 | 3,325 | 2,370 | 670 | 625 |
| Terrace | 17,355 | 10,665 | 4,155 | 1,990 | 430 | 110 |
| Vancouver | 1,992,490 | 1,043,415 | 482,670 | 240,045 | 60,675 | 165,685 |
| Vernon | 51,960 | 26,365 | 12,280 | 9,545 | 2,960 | 810 |
| Victoria | 311,060 | 165,100 | 77,665 | 37,855 | 19,760 | 10,675 |
| Williams Lake | 17,605 | 10,000 | 4,070 | 2,770 | 610 | 155 |
| British Columbia | 3,871,915 | 2,067,785 | 904,705 | 528,500 | 164,715 | 206,215 |

Following the net migrant outflow to other provinces of more than 23,000 people in the 1996 to 2001 period, BC returned to a net migrant inflow of about 22,000 people from the rest of Canada in the 2006 Census. Among the other provinces, only Alberta had higher net interprovincial migration, with 88,000 new residents. Prince Edward Island also had a net inflow of migrants from the rest of Canada. All other provinces experienced a net outflow of migrants, with Ontario and Saskatchewan both losing over 25,000 people, and about 20,000 leaving Manitoba.

Of the 164,710 people to move to BC, most came from Alberta (38.1%) and Ontario (34.0%). Together, these two provinces provided nearly 120,000 new residents to BC. Over 10,000 people also arrived from each province of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Quebec.

Of the 206,215 people who moved to BC from outside of Canada during the 2001-2006 period, over 80% settled in the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area, representing over 8% of the population aged 5 and over. Victoria and Abbotsford were the second most popular destinations for external migrants, receiving 10,675 and 6,640 individuals, respectively. Vancouver was also the most popular destination among interprovincial movers, accounting for 36.8% of BC's intake, followed by Victoria (12.0%) and Kelowna (7.6%).

For people moving within the province (both non-migrant and intraprovincial movers), Vancouver was again the most popular destination, taking in more than 720,000 migrants, constituting 50.4% of BC's total. Other areas with a large share of movers coming from within BC include Victoria (115,520), Abbotsford (62,695) and Kelowna (62,395).

Movers from within the province made up over a third of the population in most of the census areas. Chilliwack and Fort St. John had the largest proportion of these movers, representing 44.3% of both areas' population. At the low end, Kitimat (28.8%) and Powell River (32.3%) were the only areas to have less than one third of their population comprised of intraprovincial movers.

Only five Census Agglomerations had more movers than non-movers in the 2001 to 2006 interval: Fort St. John (45.3%), Kelowna (48.9%), Nanaimo (49.2%), Dawson Creek (49.3%), and Abbotsford (49.5%). However, it should be noted that these areas also had among the highest levels on non-migration moves, indicating that many of the moves were short distance.

The three Census Agglomerations that had the most people with the same address in 2006 as in 2001 were Kitimat (68.1%), Quesnel (64.0%), and Terrace (61.5%). However, as this statistic ignores the number of people who have moved out of the area since 2001, it should not be interpreted as a reliable measure of overall stability. Subprovincial out-migration figures have not been released to date. As these areas experienced population declines between 2001 and 2006, it is likely that they had a considerable amount of out-migration.

**Table 6: CMA and CA 5 Year Mobility (% of Population 5 Years of Age Plus)**

| CMA/CA | Non-Movers | Non-Migrants | Intra-provincial Migrants | Inter-provincial Migrants | International Migrants |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abbotsford | 49.5% | 28.3% | 14.5% | 3.1% | 4.5% |
| Campbell River | 52.9% | 25.1% | 16.2% | 4.5% | 1.3% |
| Chilliwack | 50.5% | 26.1% | 18.2% | 3.7% | 1.5% |
| Courtenay | 51.0% | 19.0% | 18.2% | 10.1% | 1.8% |
| Cranbrook | 57.6% | 22.0% | 12.5% | 6.6% | 1.2% |
| Dawson Creek | 49.3% | 29.5% | 13.4% | 6.2% | 1.5% |
| Duncan | 56.7% | 21.6% | 15.8% | 4.5% | 1.5% |
| Fort St. John | 45.3% | 28.6% | 15.7% | 9.1% | 1.3% |
| Kamloops | 53.5% | 25.1% | 15.8% | 4.2% | 1.4% |
| Kelowna | 48.9% | 26.4% | 14.4% | 8.1% | 2.2% |
| Kitimat | 68.1% | 21.5% | 7.2% | 3.0% | 0.1% |
| Nanaimo | 49.2% | 27.3% | 15.5% | 5.6% | 2.4% |
| Parksville | 50.2% | 14.2% | 23.9% | 9.6% | 2.0% |
| Penticton | 53.1% | 21.0% | 18.0% | 6.8% | 1.1% |
| Port Alberni | 60.2% | 22.4% | 13.7% | 2.9% | 0.7% |
| Powell River | 60.9% | 20.1% | 12.2% | 4.0% | 2.8% |
| Prince George | 56.7% | 27.7% | 11.0% | 3.5% | 1.1% |
| Prince Rupert | 58.6% | 26.8% | 11.2% | 2.1% | 1.4% |
| Quesnel | 64.0% | 22.9% | 10.4% | 1.9% | 0.9% |
| Salmon Arm | 50.8% | 19.5% | 20.2% | 7.8% | 1.7% |
| Squamish | 50.8% | 23.4% | 16.7% | 4.7% | 4.4% |
| Terrace | 61.5% | 23.9% | 11.5% | 2.5% | 0.6% |
| Vancouver | 52.4% | 24.2% | 12.0% | 3.0% | 8.3% |
| Vernon | 50.7% | 23.6% | 18.4% | 5.7% | 1.6% |
| Victoria | 53.1% | 25.0% | 12.2% | 6.4% | 3.4% |
| Williams Lake | 56.8% | 23.1% | 15.7% | 3.5% | 0.9% |
| British Columbia | 53.4% | 23.4% | 13.6% | 4.3% | 5.3% |

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April 18, 2008
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# *BC at a glance . . .*

| POPULATION (thousands) | Jan 1/08 | % change on one year ago |
|---|---|---|
| BC | 4,414.0 | 1.5 |
| Canada | 33,143.6 | 1.1 |
| **GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 8)** | | |
| *(BC - at market prices)* | 2006 | % change on one year ago |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)* | 180,328 | 6.4 |
| GDP *($ 2002 millions)* | 158,335 | 3.3 |
| GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)* | 36,649 | 1.9 |
| Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)* | 24,051 | 5.2 |
| **TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)** | | % change on prev. month |
| Manufacturing Shipments - Feb | 3,342 | -0.2 |
| Merchandise Exports - Feb | 2,552 | 8.2 |
| Retail Sales - Jan | 4,811 | -0.2 |
| **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX** | % change on one year ago | 12-month avg % change |
| *(all items - Mar 2008)* | | |
| BC | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Vancouver | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| Victoria | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Canada | 1.4 | 2.1 |
| **LABOUR FORCE (thousands)** | Mar '08 | % change on prev. month |
| *(seasonally adjusted)* | | |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,422 | 0.8 |
| Employed - BC | 2,318 | 0.6 |
| Unemployed - BC | 104 | 5.1 |
| | | Feb '08 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)* | 4.3 | 4.1 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)* | 6.0 | 5.8 |
| **INTEREST RATES (percent)** | Apr 16/08 | Apr 18/07 |
| Prime Business Rate | 5.25 | 6.00 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 6.95 | 6.60 |
| - 5 year | 6.99 | 6.64 |
| **US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE** | Apr 16/08 | Apr 18/07 |
| *(avg. noon spot rate)* Cdn $ per US $ | 1.0025 | 1.1288 |
| *(closing rate)* US $ per Cdn $ | 0.9986 | 0.8866 |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE** | Mar '08 | % change on one year ago |
| *(industrial aggregate - dollars)* | | |
| BC | 761.02 | 2.4 |
| Canada | 767.70 | 4.4 |

**SOURCES:**

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

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